

Claims

1. A peak flow measurement device comprising a hollow body having an inlet for receiving fluid and an outlet, wherein the inlet and outlet are spaced apart from each other, the cross-sectional area of the body being greater than the cross-sectional area of the outlet and wherein in use the device is oriented such that the inlet is above the outlet and the measured peak flow is proportional to the maximum height of fluid within the body.
2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outlet is circular in cross-section.
3. A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the outlet is so shaped and dimensioned as to present a hydro-dynamically thin orifice to fluid efflux.
4. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising scale means for determining the peak height of fluid in the hollow body.
5. A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the scale means comprises at least one indicia.
6. A device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the scale means comprises at least two different coloured bars each representing a different peak flow rate or range of peak flow rates.
7. A device as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6, wherein the scale means comprises heat sensitive material providing a semi-permanent or permanent indication of fluid height.
8. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the heat sensitive material is applied to the wall of the hollow body.
9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the heat sensitive material is applied to a portion of the wall of the hollow body with reduced wall thickness.
10. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the hollow body is constructed from a transparent material.
11. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the inlet is connectable to a funnel.
12. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the hollow body is cylindrical in shape.
13. A device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the hollow body has a diameter of 30mm and the outlet orifice has a diameter of 4mm.

14. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the hollow body comprises at least two portions each having different cross sectional areas.
15. A device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the cross sectional area of the hollow body increases step-wise.
16. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein scale means for determining the peak height of fluid passing through the hollow body comprises the step-wise changes in the cross-sectional area of said hollow body.
17. A device as claimed in any of claims 15 to 16, wherein at least one pyramidal tooth is incorporated into the rim of each step.
18. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the fluid is urine.
19. A device as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising a receptacle for catching effluxed fluid.
20. A device for measuring the peak rate of fluid flow substantially as shown in and described with reference to the drawings.
21. A method for determining the peak flow rate of a fluid using the device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 20, comprising the steps of
 - (a) introducing fluid to the inlet of the device; and
 - (b) determining the peak fluid level within the hollow body;wherein the peak fluid flow rate is proportional to the maximum height of fluid in the body.